

# WEST VIRGINIA STATISTICAL INFORMATION

## General State Information

**State Flag:** The design of the present state flag was officially adopted by the Legislature on March 7, 1929 by Senate Joint Resolution 18. Prominently displayed on the pure white field of today's flag and emblazoned in proper colors is the State Coat of Arms, the lower half of which is wreathed by Rhododendron. Across the top, lettered on a ribbon, is the constitutional designation - State of West Virginia. The white field is bordered on four sides by a strip of blue, and for parade purposes, all but the staff side are to be trimmed with gold fringe.



**State Seal:** Adopted by the Legislature on September 26, 1863, the Great Seal of West Virginia, which also is the Coat of Arms, symbolizes the principal pursuits and resources of West Virginia. The obverse side of the Seal bears the legend, State of West Virginia, together with the motto, *Montani Semper Liberi* (Mountaineers Are Always Free); a farmer stands to the right and a miner to the left of a large ivy-draped rock bearing the date of the state's admission to the Union, and in front of the rock are two hunters' rifles upon which rests a Phrygian Cap, or "Cap of Liberty." The Seal was designed by Joseph H. Diss Debar of Doddridge County at the request of the first West Virginia Legislature.

**State Day:** On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln approved the Statehood Bill for West Virginia, on the condition that the new state would gradually abolish slavery. West Virginia was proclaimed a state on April 20, 1863, with the bill becoming effective 60 days later (June 20, 1863).

**State Songs:** *The West Virginia Hills*, *This is My West Virginia* and *West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home* were designated as the official state songs of West Virginia, each ranking equally with others in official status, on February 28, 1963.

<b>State Bird:</b>	Cardinal ( <i>Richmondia Cardinalis</i> )	March 7, 1949
<b>State Tree:</b>	Sugar Maple ( <i>Acer Saccharum</i> )	March 7, 1949
<b>State Flower:</b>	Rhododendron Maximum of "Big Laurel"	January 29, 1903
<b>State Animal:</b>	Black Bear ( <i>Ursus Americanus</i> )	1973 Regular Session
<b>State Fish:</b>	Brook Trout	1973 Regular Session
<b>State Fruit:</b>	Golden Delicious Apple	February 20, 1995
<b>State Butterfly:</b>	Monarch	March 1, 1995
<b>State Soil:</b>	Monongahela Silt Loam	April 2, 1997

### State Supported Universities: 8

Concord University  
Fairmont University  
Marshall University  
Shepherd University  
WV Osteopathic School of Medicine  
WV State University  
West Virginia University  
WVU Institute of Technology

### State Supported Colleges: 4

Bluefield State College  
Glenville State College  
Potomac State College  
West Liberty State College

# STATE CAPITOL - HELPFUL INFORMATION

## CAPITOL

Open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday  
Open 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday  
Open 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. Sunday and holidays

## CAFETERIA

Open 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except holidays  
Menu Recording 558-6309  
Office 558-4924

## CULTURAL CENTER

Open 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday  
Open 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday  
Open 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday  
Archives closed on Sunday; Library Commission closed Saturday and Sunday

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance	911
Dam Emergency	1 (800) 654-3312
Emergency Services	8-5380
Fire Department	911
General Services Division	558-2317; 558-5717 (after 5:00 p.m.)
Police Department	911
Pollution Spills	1 (800) 642-3074 (non-coal, oil, gas)
Security:	
Protective Service	558-9911; 558-5715 after 5:00 p.m.
State Police	558-7777

## STATE CAPITOL HANDICAPPED ENTRANCES

East Wing – California Avenue Entrance  
West Wing – Cultural Center Entrance  
Rotunda - Center Fountain Entrance

## HELPFUL NUMBERS

Credit Union-State Employees	558-0566
Credit Union-DHHR	558-9188
Day Care Center	348-6580
Dispensary	558-3663
Maintenance Requests	558-2317
Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA)	558-7850
Retirement Board	558-3570
Security	558-9911
Snack Bar:	
East Wing	558-2391
West Wing	558-2392
Tours: Capitol and Governor's Mansion	558-0220
Vital Statistics	558-2931

## OFFICE HOURS

All state offices are open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Many offices remain open additional hours to serve the public.

## **SHUTTLE SERVICE**

**Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority (KRT)      343-7586**

(Subject to change during Legislative Session)

Service is provided to and from Laidley Field and the Capitol Complex before and after office hours and during lunch hours.

The bus runs approximately every 10-15 minutes and the stops are:

- Capitol Parking Building (Piedmont Road)
- Laidley Field (Parking Lot)
- Building 5 (Piedmont Road entrance)
- Building 6 (California Avenue entrance)
- State Capitol (East Wing entrance - California Avenue)
- State Capitol (Main entrance - California Avenue)
- Governor's driveway (Greenbrier Street)

## **TELEPHONE SERVICE**

**Capitol Operator**

**Dial 0**

### **Dialing Instructions**

Station to Station from 558

Dial 8 + last 4 digits

Charleston Area

Dial 9 + 7-digit number

To dial 800 numbers

Dial 9 + 1 + 800 + 7-digit number

### **Long Distance:**

Intrastate

Dial 9 + 1 + 304 + 7-digit phone number

Interstate

Dial 9 + 1 + area code + 7-digit phone number.

International

Dial 9 + 0 + country code + city code + final digits.

## ABOUT YOUR STATE CAPITOL

<b>Architect:</b>	Cass Gilbert
<b>Completed:</b>	February 1932
<b>Original Cost:</b>	\$9,491,180
<b>Grounds:</b>	16 acres
<b>Floor Space:</b>	535,000 square feet
<b>Outside Walls:</b>	700 loads of Buff Indiana limestone
<b>Interior:</b>	Main Unit: Imperial Danby Vermont Marble Wings: Tennessee marble Floors: White Vermont Marble and Italian travertine
<b>Chandelier:</b>	Czechoslovakian-imported crystal weighing two tons; 15,000 candle power; 179 feet, 9 inches from the floor; 54-foot gold chain lowered by hand winch at a set speed, requiring 3-1/2 hours to lower and 4-1/2 hours to return to stationary position. It is lowered for cleaning every four years prior to the gubernatorial inauguration.



## GENERAL STATE INFORMATION STATISTICAL DATA

<b>Highest point in West Virginia:</b>	Spruce Knob Pendleton County
<b>Lowest Point in West Virginia:</b>	Potomac River at Harpers Ferry Jefferson County
<b>Area (Square Miles) land and water:</b>	24,231.4
<b>Population (2000 Census):</b>	1,809,000
<b>Counties:</b>	55
<b>Municipalities:</b>	234
<b>Youngest County:</b>	Mingo (1895)
<b>Oldest County:</b>	Hampshire (1754)
<b>Smallest County:</b>	Hancock (88.2 square miles)
<b>Largest County:</b>	Randolph (1,040 square miles)
<b>Highest Point:</b>	Spruce Knob, Pendleton County (4,861 feet)
<b>Lowest Point:</b>	Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County (247 feet)
<b>Geographical Center of State:</b>	near Sutton, Braxton County
<b>Center of Population:</b>	near Gassaway, Braxton County

## **OFFICIAL STATE HOLIDAYS**

New Year's Day  
Martin Luther King's Birthday (third Monday in January)  
Lincoln's Birthday  
Washington's Birthday (Third Monday in February)  
Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)  
West Virginia Day  
Independence Day  
Labor Day (First Monday in September)  
Columbus Day (Second Monday in October)  
Veterans Day  
Thanksgiving Day (Fourth Thursday in November)  
Christmas Eve\*  
Christmas Day  
New Year's Eve\*

*\* Indicates a half-day holiday.*

*When a holiday falls on a Sunday, the succeeding Monday shall be regarded, treated and observed as the legal holiday.*

## **STATE WEB ADDRESS**

[www.wv.gov](http://www.wv.gov)